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June 22, 2007

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals, TW-A325
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice – Rural Health Care Support Mechanism,
WC Docket No. 02-60.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

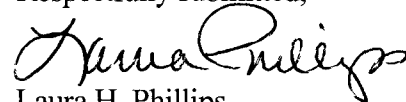
On June 20, 2007, Art Spies of the Iowa Hospital Association, Joe LeValley of Mercy Medical Center—Des Moines, David Hickman of Mercy Health Network, and Scott Curtis of Kossuth Regional Health Center, collectively referred to as the “Iowa delegation,” and Laura Phillips, Robert Waters, and Deborah Salons of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, met with Jeremy Marcus, Thomas Buckley, Bill Sharkey, Jake Jennings, Melissa Kinkel, and Cindy Spiers of the Wireline Competition Bureau and Jennifer Prime, Elizabeth Valinoti, and Gary Seigel of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau, to discuss the Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program application that is a subject of *Rural Health Care Pilot Program Order* in the above-referenced docket.

The Iowa delegation highlighted the information contained in the Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program application to the FCC’s Rural Health Care Pilot Program, as well as the information in the attached document, including a discussion of the plan to use the Iowa Communications Network’s backbone that reaches every county in Iowa to connect 97 hospitals statewide under the auspices of the Iowa Hospital Association, an association that represents all Iowa hospitals. The Iowa delegation also discussed the benefits of delivering advanced, broadband intensive telemedicine to Iowans and presented the clinical benefits of such capabilities from a rural hospital perspective.

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, this letter and attachment are being submitted for inclusion in the referenced dockets. Please direct any questions you may have to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Laura H. Phillips

cc: Jeremy Marcus
Thomas Buckley
Bill Sharkey
Jake Jennings
Melissa Kinkel
Cindy Spiers
Jennifer Prime
Elizabeth Valinoti
Gary Seigel

Attachment



The IRHTP (Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program) consortium is comprised of (1) Nebraska, (2) South Dakota, and (97) Iowa hospitals with a common goal to provide advanced healthcare without geographic restrictions. The consortium includes (87) rural and (13) urban hospitals from (11) different health systems. The program will result in the **largest, most advanced and cost effective** telemedicine network in the upper midwest.

**One goal
100 hospitals
1,000 megabits each
Enhanced healthcare for Iowans**

Project Features

- Provides a last mile fiber connection to each rural and urban hospital
- Utilizes current fiber backbone and wavelengths to construct a dedicated and resilient 10 gigabit IP/MPLS backbone
- Utilizes current resilient gigabit Internet and Internet2 connections
- Meets healthcare providers' legacy needs (H.320), current needs (Ethernet 10/100/1,000) and future needs (wavelength services)
- Provides services to 91% of all Iowa rural hospitals
- Leverages public/private partnership with an established carrier
- Continues planning and collaborative implementation with Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division



Budget Overview

The following overall project estimate maximizes financial options with each member's connection.*

\$ 7,704,050	Last mile fiber connecting each hospital
\$ 1,779,072	Access electronics
\$ 2,221,510	Core network electronics
\$11,704,632	Total Overall Cost

Benefits

Upon completion each hospital will have high speed access to:

- Other consortium hospitals
- On-net healthcare groups (e.g. radiology, pathology, specialty surgical consultations)
- Internet and Internet2
- Voice and web conferencing services
- Video conferencing services (ISDN [H.320], IP [H.323], ICN [MPEG-2])
- Wavelength services for PACS backup using the latest networking technology
- Higher education teaching and research facilities

The vision is to allow hospitals, regardless of size, location or affiliation, to access the most advanced, most cost effective means of providing healthcare without geographic limitations. For more information, contact Art Spies (515) 283-9314.

